

## **Geospatial Data Index**

Ling Wan  
GDI Task Manager  
OEI  
(202) 566-2142  
wan.ling@epamail.epa.gov

**Key Words:** spatial, geospatial, metadata, imagery, GIS

The U.S. EPA's National Geospatial Program was established to increase the availability of and access to quality geospatial data, technologies, and tools to support decision making related to protecting and improving the environment and public health. A key component of the Program is the development of the web-based Geospatial Data Index (GDI), initiated by the Data Acquisition Branch of the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) in July of 2000.

GDI provides a means for EPA employees to quickly locate information about EPA geospatial resources and activities. GDI has developed a thorough inventory of Agency-wide geospatial metadata, which is stored in the Environmental Information Management System (EIMS). The collection is accessed with a search application located on the GDI web site. The site also provides EPA staff with links to other clearinghouses, indexes and catalogs holding geospatial data and information that could support the implementation of EPA business operations.

Partnerships with regional and program offices have enabled GDI to become a thorough and comprehensive resource to EPA staff. GDI partnerships have also provided a means to explore new technologies for enhancing efficiency. For example, GDI recently developed a web-based service that directly links to the Region 10 geospatial metadata database, eliminating the need to duplicate data in a central database. The web service is being further developed to accommodate additional regional and program offices that use various database technologies. Additionally, GDI is in the planning phase for development of a geospatial element of the Central Data Exchange (CDX).

GDI supports the Geo One-Stop initiative, an intergovernmental project managed by the Department of the Interior in support of the President's Initiative for E-government, and which builds upon its partnership with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to improve the ability of the public and government to use geospatial information to support the business of government and facilitate decision making. GDI is currently supporting the development of FGDC compliant geospatial metadata to EPA regional and program offices, and publishing the data to the National Spatial Data Clearinghouse.